(b) As per information provided by the Food Corporation of India, the provisional stocks of rice and wheat in the Central Pool as on 1.4.93 are as under:—

	(Million Tonnes
Rice	9.9
Wheat	2.7

(c) and (d) No additional wheat beyond 29.90 lakh tonnes, which had been contracted during June-October, 1992, is proposed to be imported as of now, keeping in view the better production and procurement prospects in 1993-94.

Setting up of Sugar Factories

568. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV:
SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sugar factories to be set up in the Eighth Five Year Plan in different parts of the country;

(b) what is the target of sugar production per annum in the country during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(c) what would be the total sugar factories in cooperative sector to be set up and specially in Maharashtra; and

(d) what would be the share of backward regions of Maharahtra like Marathwada and Vidarbha?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) The number of sugar factories to be set up during the 8th Five Year Plan would depend upon the licences issued, the availability of funds from financial institutions, and the capacity of sugar plant & machinery suppliers etc.

(b) The Committee constituted to formulate the developfent programme for Sugar Industry had, in its Report, recommended the following targets of sugar production for different years of the present Eighth Five Year Plan period:

Year	Target of production (in lakh tonnes)
1992-93 . .	121.68
1993-94 . .	127-76
1994-95 . .	134.13
1995-96 . .	140.84
1996-97 . .	147.88

(c) and (d) The targets of licensed and installed capacity have been fixed for the country as a whole. No break-up, Sector-wise or State-wise, has been made so far.

Production of Sugar during the Eighth Five Year Plan

569. SHRI VIATHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) what would be the target of sugar production in the country during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) what would be the domestic consumption and export quota during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Minister for Food has accepted to form three sugar zones in Maharashtra; and

(d) what is the period accepted for free sale of sugar for new sugar factories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) The Committee constituted to formulate the development programme for sugar indus-

try had fixed the following year-wise targets for the present Eighth Plan period:—

Sugar Year (Oct.—Sept.)	Targets of Sugar production (in lakh tonnes)
1992-93	121.68
1993-94	127.76
1994-95	134.13
1995-96	140.84
1996-97	147.88

(b) The estimates of domestic consumption, year-wise, during the Eighth Plan period are as follows:—

(in lakh tonnes)

Sugar year (Oct.—Sept.)	Estimates of Domestic consumption of sugar
1992-93	120.39
1993-94	126.41
1994-95	132.73
1995-96	139.37
1996-97	146.34

As per the Export Promotion Act, 1958, the export quota is to be decided having regard to, among others things, the quantity of sugar available in India and estimated requirement of sugar for internal consumption. In view of this, no quota has been fixed in advance for the 8th Plan.

(c) The request for division of Maharashtra into 3 zones for the purposes of levy price determination has been referred to the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices (BICP) and the report of BICP in this regard is awaited.

(d) Under the Incentive Scheme 1993, the freesale entitlement of sugar for new sugar factories and restructured units would be 100 per cent for 8 years in "High Recovery Areas" and 100 per cent for 9 years and 66 per cent for the 10th year in "Other Recovery Areas".

Shortfall in the production of sugar

570. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country is likely to suffer a shortfall in the production of sugar as much as 20 lakh tons in the current sugar year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are being taken to meet this shortfall?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The fall in sugar production is attributed to lower production and availability of sugarcane during 1992-93 season as compared to the previous season.

(c) The Government have initiated the following measures to improve the level of sugar production in the country:—

(A) The Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) of sugarcane payable by sugar factories for 1992-93 sugar season has been raised to Rs. 31/- per quintal linked to a basic recovery of 8.5 per cent, as against Rs. 26.00 per quintal for the previous season.

(B) For the 1993-94 sugar season, the SMP of sugarcane has been announced in advance at Rs. 32.50 per quintal linked to a basic recovery of 8.5 per cent.

(C) The ex-factory price of levy sugar has been raised commensurate with the increase in SMP.